

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01153 181154Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 OMB-01 DHA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
-----181156 093283 /13

R 181114Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1842
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1153

RIYADH FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SY GR TU
SUBJECT: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER TO PROBE SYRO-TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: ATHENS 1508

1. DURING CALL AT GREEK EMBASSY, EMBOFF WAS INFORMED
THAT GREEK FONMIN BITSIOS WILL VISIT SYRIA FEB 22.
EMBOFF TOLD THAT SYRIA UNHAPPY WITH TURKEY, NOT ONLY OVER
ISSUE TURKISH-IRAQI PIPELINE, BUT ALSO OVER REPORTS 3-4000
IRAQI "VOLUNTEERS" TRANSITED TURKEY ON WAY TO LEBANON
DURING THE CIVIL WAR THERE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01153 181154Z

2. ANOTHER EMBOFF GIVEN ESSENTIALLY SAME INFORMATION
BY LOCAL JOURNALIST. REGARDING RUMOR THAT SOME IRAQI
TROOPS TRANSITED TURKEY, JOURNALIST EXCLAIMED "THAT'S
NO RUMOR, IT'S KNOWN." HE SAID SARG DEFINITELY BELIEVED
SUCH REPORTS. HE CLAIMED THAT IN RECENT MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND EUPHRATES DAM WITH LOCAL

JOURNALISTS QUESTION WAS ASKED ABOUT SYRIAN GRIEVANCES WITH TURKEY. BOTH MINISTERS AVOIDED ANSWERING AND WARNED PRESS THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD TURKEY BE CRITICIZED. THIS BORNE OUT DURING PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST TURKISH-IRAQI PIPELINE IN WHICH CRITICISM EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSED ON IRAQ.

3. TURKISH EMBOFF PROVIDED DIFFERENT VIEW OF SYRO-TURKISH BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE TOLD US THAT TURKEY CONSIDERS RELATIONS WITH SYRIA STEADILY IMPROVING AFTER MANY YEARS OF STRAIN. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SYRIANS LESS THAN HAPPY ABOUT PIPELINE BUT ASSERTED THIS HAD NOT AFFECTED RELATIONS. HE STATED THAT HE ASSUMED TURKEY HAD RECEIVED PIROR SYRIAN AND IRAQI AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTING NEW DAM ON EUPHRATES RIVER SINCE WORLD BANK LOANS REQUIRED SUCH ASSENT, AND HE UNDERSTOOD CONSTRUCTION ON DAM HAD BEGUN.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT TURKISH EMBOFF IS INTENTIONALLY DOWNPLAYING SYRIAN-TURKISH DIFFERENCES, WHICH CURRENT VISIT OF IRAQI LEADER SADDAM HUSSEIN TO TURKEY UNLIKELY TO ASSUAGE. HOWEVER, GIVEN SYRIA'S CONTINUING CONFRONTATION WITH ISREAL, OPEN RIFT WITH IRAQ, AND LARGE NUMBER OF TROOPS DIVERTED TO LEBANON, IT UNDERSTANDABLE THAT SYRIA RELUCTANT TO VOICE ANY COMPLAINTS TO TURKEY WITHOUT MAJOR PROVOCATION. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND FROM TURKISH AMBASSADOR THAT VISITS OF BOTH TURKISH FONMIN AND TURKISH PRIMIN (AFTER FONMIN'S VISIT) ARE IN THE WORKS BUT NO DATES HAVE YET BEEN SET. IT UNLIKELY THAT GREEK FONMIN WILL GET VERY FAR IT HE HOPES TO PERSUADE SYRIA TO GO BEYOND PREVIOUS POSITIONS IT HAS TAKEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01153 181154Z

ON CYPRUS AND OTHER OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS DIRECTLY AFFECTING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS VISIT CAN BE EXPECTED TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL ECONOMIC TIES INCLUDING CONSECRATION OF RECENT AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN GREECE AND SYRIA.
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC01153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770058-0727
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770228/aaaaayub.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ba67cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 1508
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3284641
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER TO PROBE SYRO-TURKISH RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, GR, TU, (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ba67cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009